
South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Competitive Funding for State Fiscal Year 2015 Special Projects:

Statewide Consumer/Family Support Networks

Special Service Contracts

South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) announces anticipated state funding in FY 2015 for Special Projects that will strengthen and expand statewide consumer/family support networks relevant to the mission of SCDDSN. Contingent upon available funds and past funding levels to an applicant organization, up to six (6) projects, \$25,000-\$65,000 each, will be funded through a competitive selection process. Following selection, a SCDDSN contract will be issued. Projects must be implemented between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

Non-profit organizations which meet the following criteria are eligible and encouraged to submit a proposal:

- Must be a statewide organization
- Must be the state affiliate of a national consumer/family support network
- Must lead a network of local/regional units
- Must target one or more disability populations served by SCDDSN
- Must not be on South Carolina Secretary of State's List of Suspended Charities or its Annual "Scrooge" List

Proposals must focus on efforts which:

- Complement but do not duplicate SCDDSN functions/services
- Extend access to information about disabling conditions and relevant resources
- Offer outreach to non-English speaking people with disabilities/families
- Assist people with disabilities/families to connect with peers and support groups
- Improve the effectiveness of peer mentors and support groups
- Enhance individual/family self-advocacy
- Expand social/recreational opportunities for people with disabilities/families
- Provide visibility and organizational leadership for one or more disability groups
- Promote multi-organization linkages and collaboration

The SCDDSN Special Projects Selection Committee will consider the following criteria in evaluating proposed projects:

- Clear and appropriate goal(s) and objectives
- Specific and appropriate implementation activities
- Scope and expected impact of the project
- Compatibility with SCDDSN mission and services
- Direct/indirect benefits to people with disabilities/families
- Adequate and justified budget; cost-effectiveness
- Capability to administer a SCDDSN contract

A SCDDSN Special Projects application (original and 4 copies) must be received by the stated deadline.